

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-29 stand rejected. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks set forth below.

#### **Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 101**

At the time the office action was mailed, the Examiner rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for statutory type double patenting. Specifically, the Examiner stated that “[c]laims 1-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 1-29 of prior U.S. Patent No. US006692293B2.” Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101. Indeed, based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner’s rejection and allowance of claims 1-29.

Section 804(II)(A) of the M.P.E.P. states that “[i]n determining whether a statutory basis for a double patenting rejection exists, the question to be asked is: Is the same invention being claimed twice?” The term “same invention,” in this context, means identical subject matter. *Miller v. Eagle Mfg. Co.*, 151 U.S. 186 (1984); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 U.S.P.Q. 619 (C.C.P.A. 1970); and *In re Ockert*, 245 F.2d 467, 114 U.S.P.Q. 330 (C.C.P.A. 1957).

Applicants respectfully assert that the present claims are *not* drawn to subject matter identical to that claimed in MacLaren et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,692,293 B2)(hereinafter “the ‘293 patent). As presented below, at least some differences between the presently pending claims and the corresponding claims of the ‘293 patent are highlighted in italics.

**Claim 1:**

Independent claim 1 of the '293 patent recites:

- A system comprising:
- a first *substrate* configured to provide a plurality of *unique identifiers* corresponding to a plurality of locations on the first substrate;
  - a plurality of connectors coupled to the first substrate at the plurality of locations, each connector comprising identification device configured to provide substrate location information and to receive the corresponding unique identifier, wherein each of the plurality of connectors *receives the corresponding unique identifier via a plurality of uniquely configured traces* corresponding to the unique location of the respective connector *on the first substrate*;
  - a plurality of second substrates, each second substrate coupled to a corresponding connector such that the identification device couples the corresponding unique identifier to the second substrate.

Independent claim 1 in the present application recites:

1. A system comprising:
  - a first *substrate* configured to provide *location identification signals* to a plurality of locations on the first substrate;
  - a plurality of connectors coupled to the first substrate at the plurality of locations, *each connector comprising an identification device uniquely configured to provide substrate location information* and to receive the corresponding location identification signals; and
  - a plurality of second substrates, each second substrate coupled to a corresponding connector such that the unique identification device couples the corresponding location identification signals to the second substrate.

**Claim 12:**

Independent claim 12 of the '293 patent recites:

12. A system comprising:
  - a first substrate; and
  - a plurality of connectors coupled to the first substrate and configured to receive a plurality of second substrates, each connector comprising a plurality of identification devices configured to provide substrate location information and to electrically couple a plurality of electrical signals

representative of a unique identifier to a corresponding second substrate, the electrical signals being received from traces on the first substrate, *wherein each of the plurality of connectors receives respective unique identifier via a plurality of uniquely configured traces corresponding to a unique location of the corresponding connector on the first substrate.*

Independent claim 12 in the present application recites:

12. A system comprising:  
a first substrate; and  
a plurality of connectors coupled to the first substrate and configured to receive a plurality of second substrates, *each connector comprising a plurality of unique identification devices uniquely configured to provide substrate location information* and to electrically couple a plurality of location identification signals to a corresponding second substrate, the electrical signals being received from traces on the first substrate.

**Claim 18:**

Independent claim 18 of the '293 patent recites:

18. A system comprising:  
*a first substrate configured to provide each of a plurality of unique identifiers to a respective one of a plurality of unique locations through a unique trace configuration on the first substrate providing substrate location information*, each of the plurality of unique identifiers and unique trace configurations corresponding to a unique one of a plurality of locations on the first substrate; and  
a plurality of second substrates coupled to the first substrate and configured to receive a corresponding unique identifier corresponding to a plurality of locations on the first substrate.

Independent claim 18 in the present application recites:

18. A connector configured to be coupled to a first substrate and configured to receive a second substrate, wherein *the connector comprises an identification device uniquely configured to provide location information* and to electrically couple a plurality of location identification signals to the second substrate, the electrical signals being received from traces on the first substrate.

**Claim 23:**

Independent claim 23 of the '293 patent recites:

23. A method of identifying the location of a substrate in a system comprising the acts of:
- (a) providing a first substrate having a plurality of traces;
  - (b) coupling a plurality of connectors to the first substrate, the connectors each comprising a plurality of contacts;
  - (c) electrically coupling each of the plurality of contacts to the first substrate through the plurality of traces, *wherein each of the plurality of connectors has a different trace configuration coupled thereto to provide substrate location information;*
  - (d) providing a logical signal to each of the plurality of contacts, the logical signals providing a unique identifier for each of the plurality of connectors, wherein the unique identifier corresponds to a unique location of one of the plurality of connectors;
  - (e) coupling a plurality of second substrates to the plurality of connectors;
  - (f) electrically coupling the plurality of second substrates to the plurality of contacts; and
  - (g) latching the plurality of logical signals of the plurality of contacts to a plurality of control devices existing on the plurality of second substrates.

Independent claim 23 in the present application recites:

23. A method of identifying the location of a substrate in a system comprising the acts of:
- (a) providing a first substrate;
  - (b) coupling a plurality of connectors to the first substrate, *the connectors each comprising a plurality of contacts and traces arranged in a unique configuration with respect to the others of the plurality of connectors, wherein the unique contact and trace configuration provides location information;*
  - (c) electrically coupling each of the plurality of contacts to the first substrate;
  - (d) providing a logical signal to each of the plurality of contacts, the logical signals providing a unique identifier for each of the plurality of connectors, wherein the unique identifier corresponds to a unique location of one of the plurality of connectors;
  - (e) coupling a plurality of second substrates to the plurality of connectors;
  - (f) electrically coupling the plurality of second substrates to the plurality of contacts; and

- (g) latching the plurality of logical signals of the plurality of contacts to a plurality of control devices existing on the plurality of second substrates.

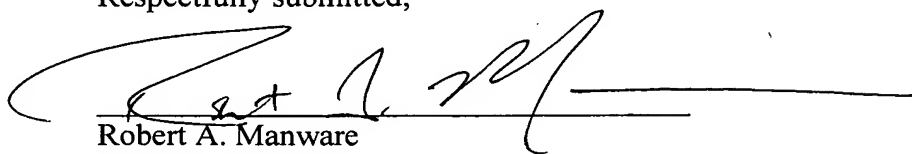
Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to meet his burden in establishing a *prima facie* case for statutory type double patenting. As illustrated by the highlighted text of the corresponding independent claim pairs, there are a number of differences between the claims recited in the present application and the claims allowed in the '293 patent. Unless the Examiner can demonstrate that these differences are meaningless, Applicants submit that any rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for statutory double patenting of the presently recited claims over the '293 patent is improper. If the Examiner chooses to maintain the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide support for this position by providing a rational basis for concluding that the instantly claimed subject matter is identical to the subject matter recited in the claims of the '293 patent.

#### **Conclusion**

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and allowance of claims 1-29. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: October 13, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

  
Robert A. Manware  
Reg. No. 48,758  
(281) 970-4545

**Correspondence Address:**  
Hewlett-Packard Company  
IP Administration  
Legal Department, M/S 35  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400